



St. Johns Church

DECATUR, ILLINOIS

"A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLE"

St. Johns Church

DECATUR, ILLINOIS

1855-1945



THE RT. REV. JOHN CHANLER WHITE, D.D., S.T.D.
Bishop of Springfield

THE REV. EDMUND MYERS RINGLAND, A.B., S.T.B.
Rector

Mr. R. W. Trotter, Rector's Warden

Mr. L. W. Shade, Parish Warden

Mr. C. C. Clouse, Clerk

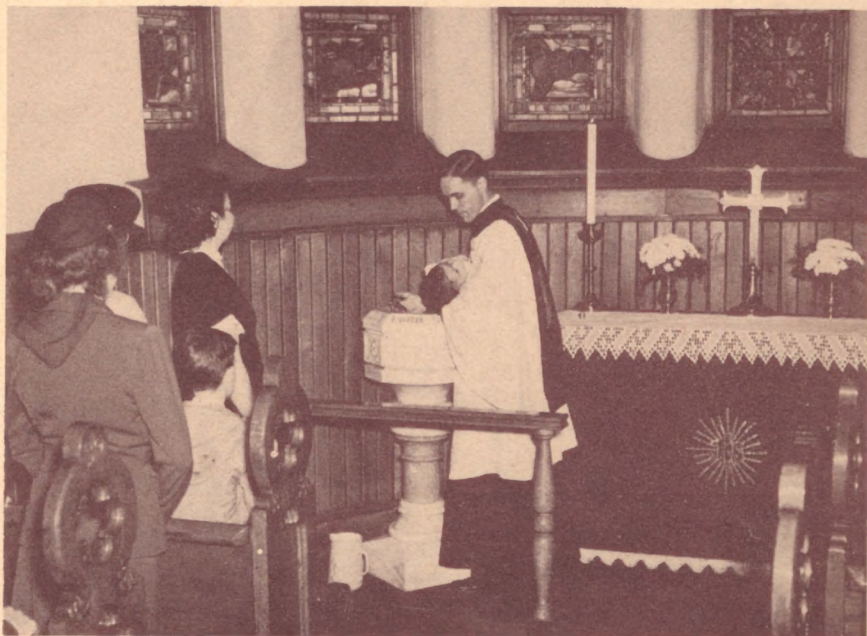
Mr. E. F. McKinley, Treasurer

Vestrymen

Mr. C. W. Armstrong
Mr. William Barnes Jr.
Mr. A. B. Counsell
Mr. H. W. Galley

Mr. F. G. Leach
Mr. D. D. Pease
Dr. M. E. Rose
Mr. Ronald Wheal

HOW WE ARE SERVED - - -



IN BAPTISM WE ARE MADE MEMBERS OF THE
FAMILY OF GOD.



IN CONFIRMATION WE ARE GIVEN THE GIFT OF POWER TO ACHIEVE SPIRITUAL MATURITY

- - - THROUGH THE SACRAMENTS

HOW WE ARE SERVED - - -



THE HOLY COMMUNION
INVOLVES
BOTH A GIVING AND
A RECEIVING
WE OFFER ANEW THE
SACRIFICE OF CAL-
VARY. WE RECEIVE
THE BREAD OF LIFE
AND ARE
STRENGTHENED.

IN HOLY MATRIMONY THE CHURCH GIVES HER
BLESSING TO A NEW CREATIVE UNIT OF
HUMAN SOCIETY. THE UNIT WHICH MIRRORS
THE KINGDOM OF GOD.



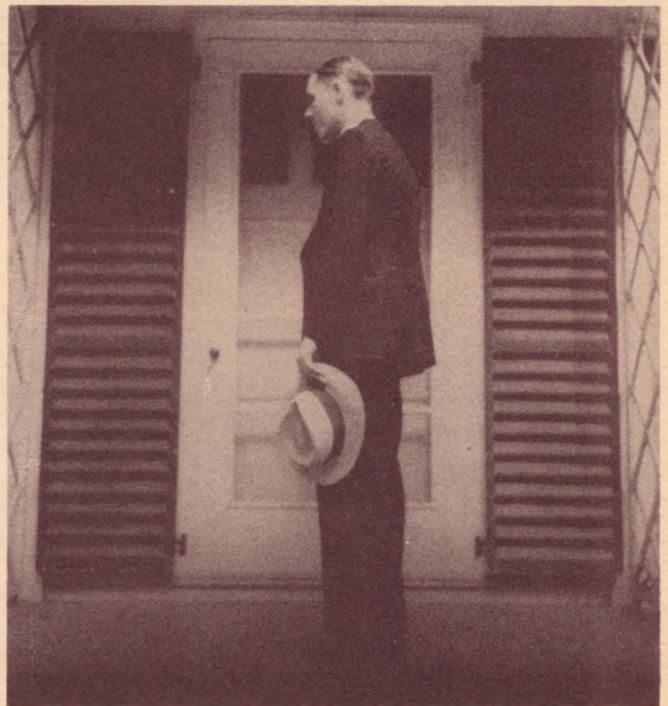
- - - THROUGH THE SACRAMENTS

HOW WE ARE SERVED - - -



THE CLERGY OF THE CHURCH GLADLY BRING THE HOLY COMMUNION AND THE SACRAMENT OF UNCTION TO THE SICK IN HOMES AND HOSPITALS. THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY OF HEALING CONTINUES THROUGH THE CENTURIES.

THE CHURCH KEEPS IN TOUCH WITH THE LIVES AND HOPES AND PROBLEMS OF HER PEOPLE BY THE PARISH CALLS MADE BY THE CLERGY.



THE CHURCH OFFERS HER MINISTRY TO THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED AND TO THOSE WHO ARE IN SORROW, GIVING THANKS TO GOD FOR THE LIVES OF HER PEOPLE AND COMMENDING THEM INTO THE ETERNAL CARE OF THE FATHER OF ALL.



- - - THROUGH THE PASTORAL MINISTRY

How we serve St. Johns Parish

"My bounden duty as a mature Christian is to worship God every Sunday in His Church, and to work and pray and give for the spread of His Kingdom."



HOW WE SERVE - - -



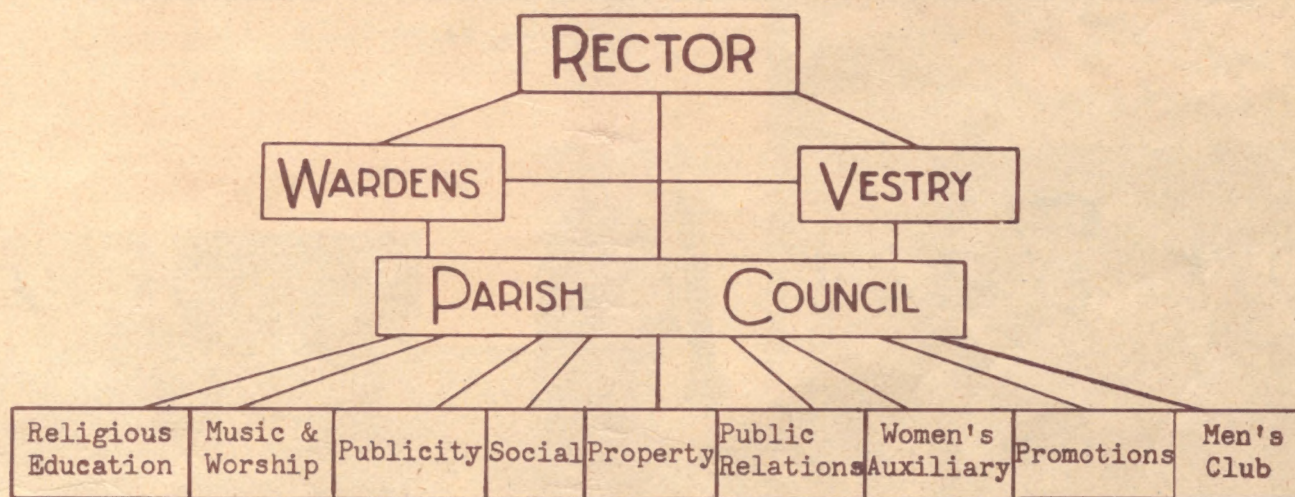
"RELIGION IS ADORATION". THE LITURGY OF OUR CHURCH IS ONE OF THE RICHEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL IN THE WORLD. BUT IT IS ONLY WORDS PRINTED ON PAPER IF IT IS NOT THE EXPRESSION OF DEVOTED AND LOVING HEARTS.

- - - THROUGH WORSHIP

HOW WE SERVE - - -



THE VESTRY WITH THE RECTOR
IS CHARGED WITH THE CARE
AND MANAGEMENT OF PARISH
AFFAIRS.



THE PARISH COUNCIL, WITH ITS SEVERAL COMMITTEES, ACTS IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE VESTRY AND CARRIES ON SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS WITHIN THE LIFE OF THE PARISH. IT IS ON THESE COMMITTEES THAT THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE PARISH CAN TRULY BE OF SERVICE TO THE FAMILY OF GOD.

- - - THROUGH WORK

HOW WE SERVE - - -

THE WOMANS AUXILIARY IS COMPOSED OF ALL BAPTISED WOMEN IN THE PARISH. THE WOMENS GUILDS ARE WORKING UNITS OF THE AUXILIARY WHICH DO RED CROSS SEWING, HOSPITAL SEWING, ALTAR WORK, AND MULTITUDINOUS THINGS FOR THE FUNCTIONING OF THE PARISH FAMILY.



St. Johns Guild



St. Marys Guild



St. Johns Altar Guild



St. Marthas Guild

- - - THROUGH WORK

HOW WE SERVE - - -



THE ACOLYTES ARE OF GREAT VALUE. IT IS THEIR PRIVILEGE TO ASSIST THE PRIEST AT THE ALTAR AND IN THE SERVICES OF THE CHURCH.

OUR PARISH CHOIR ADDS GREAT BEAUTY AND DIGNITY TO OUR WORSHIP. MEN AND WOMEN FIND IN THE CHOIR A REWARDING OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE FAMILY OF GOD.



THE MEN'S CLUB IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE IN THE PARISH PROGRAM. IT SUPPORTS OUR BOYS WORK AND PROVIDES FELLOWSHIP FOR THE MEN OF THE PARISH.



- - - THROUGH WORK

HOW WE SERVE - - -



IN PRAYER MAN REACHES OUT TO GOD IN NEED, AND WITH THANKSGIVING
FINDS THAT MAN TRULY DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE.

- - - THROUGH PRAYER

HOW WE SERVE - - -

THE BUDGET OF ST. JOHNS PARISH 1945

SALARIES	\$ 3,807.00
UTILITIES	980.00
OFFICE EXPENSE	575.00
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	1,143.00
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE	250.00
SOCIAL COMMITTEE	50.00
MUSIC AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE	1,200.00
PROMOTION COMMITTEE	200.00
ALTAR GUILD	150.00
DIOCESAN ASSESSMENTS AND MISSION QUOTA	869.00
RECTOR'S ACCOUNT FOR ALMS AND DISCRETIONARY	240.00
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	<u>\$ 9,464.00</u>

INCOME EXPECTED FOR 1945

LOOSE OFFERING	\$ 500.00
CHRISTMAS OFFERING	200.00
EASTER OFFERING	300.00
INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS	1,800.00
NEEDED FROM PLEDGES	7,000.00
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	<u>\$ 9,800.00</u>

TO OPERATE ST. JOHNS PARISH EVEN ON ITS PRESENT ADMITTEDLY INADEQUATE SCALE TAKES APPROXIMATELY \$800.00 A MONTH OR \$185.00 EVERY WEEK. YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF HOW MUCH OF THE WEEKLY COST YOU ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO SHARE.

- - - THROUGH GIVING

HOW WE SERVE - - -



Dear Friend,

As you have looked through these pages I trust that you have caught some vision of the work of this parish; what it can do for you; what you can do for this parish. We need you in the life and work of this portion of the Christ's Church.

My one hope is that we may together build up a Christian family which will truly represent the Family of God in spirit and in actions. This can only be realized when everyone in the parish is sincerely and devoutly consecrating all that he does and says and is to Almighty God. Outward observances are not sufficient, our inner life must grow and flourish. This is not a mere pious hope but, under God, a real and vital necessity if we are to help restore decency, justice and truth to a world that so easily forgets the values for which men must live.

I trust that in the days to come we may progress enough toward the attainment of this goal that the men and women who have gone from this parish to the far ends of the earth may return to find us with vision, courage and constant faith building a better community.

The phrase, "the future is now", drives me through the days and months, and I hope it will come to haunt you as it does me. The future lies not at the end of a succession of days and years: the future is now. And the future of St. Johns parish lies not in 1955 when we will have completed a hundred years of life in this community; it depends upon you and me now for the future is now.

With kindest regards to you, I am

Faithfully yours,

EM England
Rector

